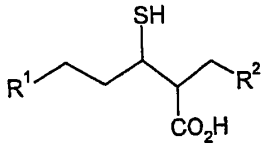
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

R^1 is phenyl {optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, cyano, C_{1-4} alkyl (itself optionally mono-substituted by cyano, hydroxy or phenyl), C_{1-4} alkoxy (itself optionally substituted by tetrahydrofuranyl), CF_3, OCF_3, methylenedioxy, $C(O)R^3$, $S(O)_2R^4$, phenyl (itself optionally substituted by halogen), phenoxy (itself optionally substituted by halogen) or tetrahydrofuranyloxy}, naphthyl, pyridinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyrimidin-2,4-dione-yl (optionally substituted by C_{1-4} alkyl) or tetrahydrothienyl;

R^2 is aminopyridinyl, aminothiazolyl or 3-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octyl;

R^3 is hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy (itself optionally substituted by phenyl (itself optionally substituted by halogen) or pyridinyl), NR^5R^6 or an N-linked 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring {unsubstituted or mono-substituted by hydroxy, oxo, C_{1-4} alkyl (itself optionally substituted by hydroxy or NHphenyl), $CO_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl) or phenyl (itself optionally substituted by halogen)};

R^4 is NR^7R^8 or an N-linked 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring {unsubstituted; mono-substituted by hydroxy, oxo, C_{1-4} alkyl (itself optionally substituted by hydroxy or NHphenyl), $CO_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl) or phenyl (itself optionally substituted by halogen); or fused to a benzene ring which is optionally substituted by C_{1-4} alkoxy};

R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 are, independently, hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl {optionally substituted by halogen, cyano, hydroxy, phenyl (itself optionally substituted by halogen or methylenedioxy), pyridinyl, CO_2H or $CO_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)} or C_{2-4} alkenyl;

provided that when R^1 is 6-aminopyridin-3-yl then R^2 is substituted phenyl, naphthyl, pyridinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyrimidin-2,4-dione-yl (optionally substituted by C_{1-4} alkyl) or tetrahydrothienyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, or a solvate of such a salt.

2. A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^1 is phenyl {optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, cyano, C_{1-4} alkyl (itself optionally mono-substituted by cyano or hydroxy), C_{1-4} alkoxy, CF_3, OCF_3, methylenedioxy, $C(O)NH_2$, $S(O)_2NH_2$ or phenyl (itself optionally substituted by halogen)}, pyridinyl or tetrahydrothienyl.

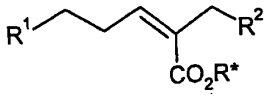
3. A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^1 is phenyl {optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, cyano, C_{1-4} alkyl (itself optionally mono-substituted by cyano, hydroxy or phenyl), C_{1-4} alkoxy, CF_3, OCF_3, methylenedioxy, phenoxy (itself optionally substituted by halogen), tetrahydrofuranyloxy or tetrahydrofuranylmethoxy}, naphthyl, pyridinyl or tetrahydrothienyl.

4. A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^1 is phenyl {substituted by halogen, hydroxy, cyano, C_{1-4} alkyl (itself optionally mono-substituted by cyano or hydroxy), C_{1-4} alkoxy, CF_3 or methylenedioxy} or tetrahydrothiophenyl.

5. A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 wherein R^2 is 6-aminopyridin-3-yl, 2-aminothiazol-5-yl or 3-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-8-yl.

6. A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 wherein R^2 is 6-aminopyridin-3-yl.

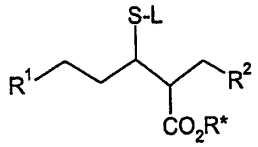
7. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) comprising reacting a compound of formula (II):



(II)

wherein R^1 is as defined in claim 1 or includes a group that can be subsequently reacted to form the group R^1, R* is a suitable protecting group and R^2 is as defined in claim 1 or the amine function of R^2 can be protected, with a thiol of formula L-

SH, wherein L is a suitable protecting group, in the presence of a suitable catalyst and in a suitable solvent, to form a compound of formula (III):



(III)

and, optionally reacting the functional group on R^1, and subsequently removing the protecting groups as necessary.

8. A pharmaceutical formulation containing a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 as active ingredient in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

9. The use of a compound as claimed in claim 1 in therapy.

10. The use of a compound as claimed in claim 1 for the manufacture of a medicament for the inhibition of carboxypeptidase U.

11. A method for treatment or prophylaxis of conditions where inhibition of carboxypeptidase U is beneficial, comprising administering to a mammal, including man, in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.

12. A pharmaceutical formulation for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of conditions where inhibition of carboxypeptidase U is beneficial, comprising a compound as claimed in claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.